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ABSTRACT

A self-reporting questionnaire (57 items) was administered to all high school sophomores (599 completions) in 3 rural Ohio high schools for purposes of identifying correlations between selected social factors and acts of vandalism. The variables examined and the student responses indicated: 52% had committed 1 or more acts of vandalism; 37% were female and 68% were male; given the degree of their other crime involvement, females were more involved in vandalism than was expected; no correlation between religious affiliation and vandalism; no correlation between length of residence in the community and vandalism; positive correlation between the marital status of the student's household head and vandalism (more acts of vandalism were reported by students from broken homes); 10% lived in a one parent household; 11% of the heads of households were female; positive correlation between female household heads and older household heads (50 years and over) and acts of vandalism; vandalism was a group phenomenon (93% acted in groups); 39% reported alcohol consumption and 11% marijuana use at the time of vandalism; 47% used motor vehicles and 36% walked; autumn was the peak season (31%) and October and March the peak months for vandalism; 59% committed the vandalism act during the weekend and 36% during the afternoon; 6 out of every 10 acts were done for the "fun of it" and 12% to "get even"; 71% did not view their acts of vandalism as criminal. (JC)

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Vandals and Vandalism in Rural Ohio

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EDUCATION & WELFARE
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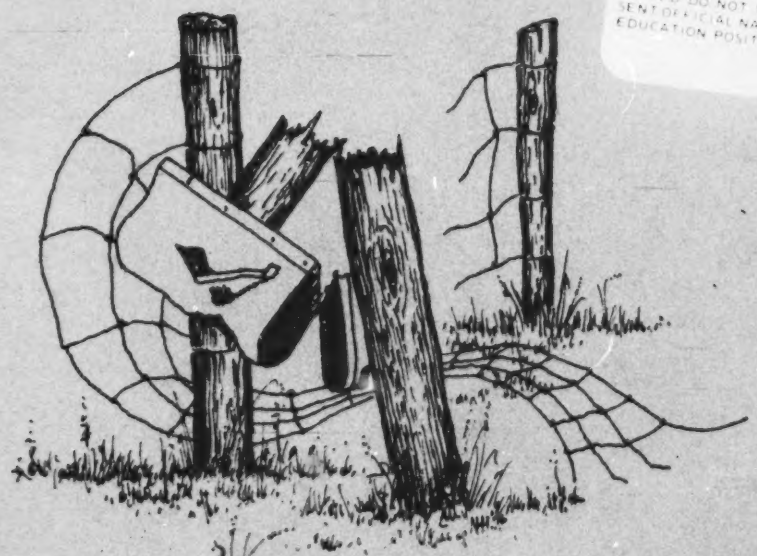

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Vandals and Vandalism in Rural Ohio

by

G. Howard Phillips and Kaye F. Bartlett

Summary of Findings

Uniform Crime Reports define vandalism as ". . . willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement, or defacement of property without consent of the owner or person having custody or control" (1973: 55).*

All findings refer to rural Ohio high school sophomores:

- 52 percent reported they have committed one or more acts of vandalism.
- 37 percent of girls reported being involved in vandalism contrasted to 68 percent of the boys.
- Females are more highly involved in vandalism than would be expected from their known involvement in other crimes.
- Membership in a religious body is not related to whether one engages in vandalistic behavior or not.
- Vandalism is not related to length of residence, or whether or not a student was born in the community.
- Rural high school sophomores are more likely to have committed acts of vandalism if the head of the household where they resided was divorced, separated, or widowed when compared to students from households where the head was married.

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*These numbers refer to a cited reference.

- 10 percent of all students reporting lived in a one parent household.
- 11 percent of the heads of households were female.
- There was a tendency for respondents living in households headed by females to be more involved in vandalism.
- Sophomore students from households where the head is 50 years of age or older are more likely to have committed acts of vandalism than those from households where the head was younger.
- Vandalism is largely a group phenomenon (93%).
- 39 percent of rural vandals acting in a group reported one or more members were consuming an alcoholic beverage at the time they were engaged in malicious destruction. Fifty percent of those consuming an alcoholic beverage were drinking beer.
- 11 percent of the vandals were smoking marijuana during their vandalistic episode.
- 47 percent travelled to the site of their malicious destruction by motor vehicles (mostly cars).
- 36 percent walked to the site which was vandalized.
- Autumn is the peak season for vandalism (31 percent).
- October and March are the peak months for vandalism.
- 59 percent of vandalistic acts occur during the weekend.
- 36 percent of acts of vandalism occur in the afternoon.
- 6 out of every 10 acts of vandalism were done for the "fun of it".
- 12 percent committed acts of vandalism to "get even".
- 71 percent do not view their acts of vandalism as criminal.

Discussion and Implications

When the majority of rural high school sophomores admit acts of vandalism, and when 71 percent view their action as play or as a game, it strongly suggests that these students have low regard for the rights of other people to own or hold property unmolested. It perhaps also suggests these rights have not been taught to modern youth or at least they have not fully accepted them. Perhaps a low regard for others' property rights is a spin-off of contemporary affluence. As more people have more property, perhaps it has less meaning or value as when it was scarce.

Another explanation may have to do with shifting from a community of customs to a community of laws. A "customary prank" of putting corn shocks in the road at Halloween may be legally a case of vandalism.

The number of females involved in vandalism suggest more freedom of behavior and activities among high school girls. Vandalism is largely a group function. It is the stimulation and support of the peer group that provides the ideas, courage, and impetus to vandalize.

Modern transportation, consolidation of schools, an increasing number of one spouse households, the declining sense of belonging to a community, and less defined roles for adolescents, perhaps in part, explain the rising phenomenon of vandalism in rural areas.

Programs initiated to reduce vandalism must by necessity be aimed at the vandals rather than at property protection. That is not to say property should not be made less appealing or less available to vandals, but the problem is too immense to be solved in this manner. That is, there is no acceptable way known to adequately police or protect vast

acres of land occupied by only a few people. People respecting the rights of others to own or control property without undue interference is the only solution. This is not an impossibility inasmuch as such values have existed in the past and still exist among some groups. It appears most youth in contemporary American society are not being taught the consequences of an act of vandalism--not the consequences in a legal sense but in terms of the inconvenience, the cost, the frustration, the fear, the danger to the victims. It also seems that youth who are reluctant to participate in vandalism are not taught personal patterns of response that will avoid entrapment by a peer group. In this sense, they are victims themselves.

A quote by Dinitz and Reckless seems a fitting summary to this discussion: "Society insists that individuals are responsible for their actions, and the criminal process operates on that assumption. However, society has not devised ways for insuring that all its members have the ability to assume responsibility. It has let too many of them grow up untaught, unmotivated, unwanted. The criminal justice system has a great potential for dealing with individual instances of crime, but it was not designed to eliminate the conditions in which most crime breeds. It needs help (1968: 6)."

Vandals and Vandalism in Rural Ohio

by

G. Howard Phillips and Kaye F. Bartlett

Vandalism is increasing in rural areas. Evidence of this type of malicious property destruction may be seen in most rural communities. Until recently little attention has been directed toward understanding the nature and scope of rural vandalism, characteristics of the vandals; and even less to understanding the cause of the increase. Recent studies of rural crime in Ohio provide an important perspective of the magnitude and seriousness of the vandalistic problem. First, a survey of over 800 Farm Bureau Advisory Councils (discussion groups of farm and rural non-farm residents) ranked vandalism as the number one rural crime problem in Ohio (1974: 10). Second, a victimization study of rural crime in nine Ohio counties supported this ranking and shows that 38 percent of all crimes committed against rural residents of their property were vandalistic in nature. Third, sheriff's reports from the same nine counties indicate reported vandalism ranked second only to theft (1975: 8). Finally, a comparison of victimization study data and the sheriff's reports revealed that vandalism is reported to law enforcement authorities less than half of the time (1976: 6).

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports, published annually, define vandalism as ". . . willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement, or defacement of property without consent of the owner or person having custody or control." (1973: 55) FBI Reports provide a base of statistical information on reported or officially known

cases of vandalism. Selected data are briefly summarized for the years 1972 and 1973: (1) vandalism arrests in rural areas of the United States increased 15.7 percent from 1972 to 1973; (2) those under 18 years of age account for 59 percent of all rural vandalism offenders arrested in 1973; (3) from 1972 to 1973, the number of persons under 18 years of age arrested for rural vandalism increased 25 percent; (4) the sixteen year old age group was the most often arrested group; and (5) the ratio of males to females arrested for rural vandalism was 14:1 (1972-1973).

In view of this growing problem of vandalism a study was initiated among sophomores attending three rural high schools in different areas of Ohio. Selected questions addressed in the study are reported here: (1) What are the characteristics of rural vandals as compared to non-vandals? (2) Do heads of households of vandals differ from heads of households of non-vandals in selected characteristics? (3) Is vandalism a group activity? (4) Are alcohol and drugs involved in vandalistic behavior? (5) What modes of transportation are involved in vandalistic behavior? (6) Are there time patterns associated with vandalism? (7) What reasons do students offer for vandalizing property?

Methods

The study population included all sophomore high school students (634 estimated) in attendance on the day a questionnaire was administered to 599 10th grade class of three rural Ohio high schools. Ninety-five percent of the questionnaires were included in the study. Rural areas were defined as open country and unincorporated concentrations of population. The three high schools were selected after considering these

criteria: (1) one rural high school was to be selected from each of three counties that were designated in the larger study to be representative of three in-state regions of appalachia, cornbelt and industrial northeast (1975: 4); (2) each school was to have a sophomore class of a minimum of 150 students; and (3) appropriate school officials needed to be willing to cooperate with administering the questionnaire.

The questionnaire consisted of five sections containing 57 items as well as general information about the study, an introduction to the term vandalism and assurances of confidentiality.

Recognizing that data gathered through self-reporting questionnaires might be over or under reported, a search of the literature produced the validation study of Clark and Tifft (1966: 516-523). These researchers found 55.0 percent of their sample had participated in vandalistic behavior. When they compared initial responses to a questionnaire with subsequent responses made during a polygraph examination, they found 77.5 percent of the responses to vandalism items were accurate, 10.0 percent over reported and 12.5 percent under reported. They suggest that ". . . accuracy is directly related to seriousness of offense, and inaccuracy . . . was highly related to declared personal norms and reference group norms."

In this self-reporting study, it would seem reasonable to assume that similar forces might be at work upon the sample and that results would be expected to be comparable. Therefore, these data should be viewed with the usual caution until replicate studies have been completed and are found to be supportive of these findings.

Results

More than one-half (52%) of high school sophomores living in rural Ohio reported that they have committed one or more acts of vandalism. Data in Table 1 also reveal that a sophomore student who is 15 years of age or less is just as likely to have committed an act of vandalism as a classmate who is 16 or more. It was hypothesized that a significant difference would exist in that 16 is the age that students obtain their driver's licenses and tend to be more mobile. Younger students commit a slightly higher percent of vandalistic acts but did not differ at a statistically significant level from those 16 or older. Perhaps greater insight can be learned about the age factor if specific acts of vandalism can be examined in future research. When more than one-half of a population admit engaging in acts of vandalism, then the norm appears to have shifted or to be shifting from not committing acts of vandalism to committing vandalistic acts.

Table 1

Age of Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents As To Whether Or Not They Were Involved In Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Age	Involvement in Acts of Vandalism					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
15 and Under	124	53.2	109	46.8	233	100.0
16 and Over	171	50.4	168	49.6	339	100.0
TOTAL	295	51.6	277	48.4	572	100.0

$X^2 > .05$, C = N.S.

These data were further examined in terms of age and the number of acts of vandalism committed. Again, as may be seen in Table 2, those 15 years of age and under did not markedly differ from older sophomores in terms of the number of acts of vandalism committed. Since vandalism involves the destruction, injury, disfigurement or defacement of property, it appears sophomores of all ages have access to property that can be damaged or destroyed.

Table 2

Age of Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Involved in Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Age	Number of Vandalistic Acts Involved In: 2 or Less		3 or More		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
15 and Under	34	27.4	90	72.6	124	100.0
16 and Over	42	24.6	129	75.4	171	100.0
TOTAL	76	25.8	219	74.2	295	100.0

$X^2 > .05$, C = N.S.

The involvement in acts of vandalism was also probed in terms of the sex of the individual. As was expected, rural high school sophomore girls were less likely as a group to have committed vandalistic acts than boys in the same year of school. As may be viewed in Table 3, 37 percent of the girls were involved in vandalism, contrasted to 68 percent of the boys reporting.

Table 3

Sex of Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents

Sex	Involvement in Acts of Vandalism					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	181	68.3	84	31.7	265	100.0
Female	113	37.3	190	62.7	303	100.0
TOTAL	294	51.8	274	48.2	568	100.0

$X^2 < .001$, C = S.

A further inspection of these data found male classmates were also more likely to have committed 3 or more acts of vandalism than their female counterparts (see Table 4). These findings suggest that females are more highly involved in vandalistic acts than would be expected from their known involvement in other crimes. Females represent only 13 percent of the arrests by Ohio Sheriffs (1976: 12). Banfield suggests that as a general rule, females have less opportunity to commit crimes than males (1974: 184). Perhaps vandalism from an opportunity perspective is an exception to Banfield's explanation in that particularly young females have access to much public and private property. It is also noteworthy in Table 4 that 74.2 percent of those reporting vandalistic acts had committed 3 or more acts. Most vandals in this study were repeaters.

Table 4

Sex of Rural High School Sophomore Respondents Involved in Acts of Vandalism

Sex	Number of Vandalistic Acts Involved In					
	2 or Less		3 or More		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	35	19.3	146	80.7	181	100.0
Female	41	36.3	72	63.7	113	100.0
TOTAL	76	25.8	218	74.2	294	100.0

$X^2 < .01$, C = S.

As may be seen in Table 5, three out of four respondents reported they were members of a church. However, those students who said they were members of a church did not differ significantly from those who said they were not members in reporting acts of vandalism in which they were involved. A slight variation is apparent among specific religious groups but not at a noteworthy level. Statistically speaking, these differences could have occurred by chance alone. A further examination of these data by religious membership and the number of acts of vandalism committed revealed no significant difference (see Table 6). Since no comparable study is known concerning vandalistic acts of rural youth, no statement of change can be made. However, it is apparent that membership in any of the dominant religious bodies does not appear to be related to whether or not one engages in vandalism.

Table 5

Religious Affiliation of Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents And Their Involvement In Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Religious Affiliation	Involvement in Acts of Vandalism					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not a Member*	73	52.9	65	47.1	138	100.0
Catholic	42	56.0	33	44.0	75	100.0
United Church of Christ	34	55.7	27	44.3	61	100.0
United Methodist	63	47.4	70	52.6	133	100.0
Other	73	50.0	73	50.0	146	100.0
TOTAL	285	51.5	268	48.5	553	100.0

*Chi square is not significant between non-members and members when members are combined.

Table 6

Religious Affliation of Rural Ohio High School Sophomores Involved in Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Religious Affiliation	Number of Vandalistic Acts Involved In					
	2 or Less		3 or More		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not a Member*	14	19.2	59	80.8	73	100.0
Catholic	13	31.0	29	69.0	42	100.0
United Church of Christ	15	44.1	19	55.9	34	100.0
United Methodist	18	28.6	45	71.4	63	100.0
Other	15	20.5	58	79.5	73	100.0
TOTAL	75	26.3	210	73.7	285	100.0

*Chi square is not significant between non-members and members when members are combined.

It was hypothesized that length of residence would be a factor in vandalism. That is, recent in-migrants would tend to commit more acts of vandalism than youth who had lived in the community for more than ten years. Vandalism was not related to length of residence or whether or not a student was born in the community. About one-third of the students had lived in the community for less than ten years.

Characteristics of Heads of Households of Respondents

Several characteristics of the heads of households where the respondents resided were inspected to determine if there were any correlations to acts of vandalism reported by the respondents. It may be noted in Table 7 that a rural high school sophomore is more likely to have committed acts of vandalism if the head of the household was divorced, separated, or widowed when compared to students from households where the head was married. Only 10 percent of the students lived in a one parent household. A further examination of these data revealed that the number of acts committed was not related to the marital status of the heads.

Eleven percent of the heads of households were female. As may be noted in Table 8, there was a tendency for respondents living in households headed by females to be more involved in vandalism. However, the difference is not statistically significant. A further search of these data did not find the sex of the head of household to be related to the number of acts of vandalism in which a student was involved

Table 7

Marital Status of Heads of Household of Rural Ohio High School Sophomores and Their Involvement in Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Marital Status of Head of Household	Involvement in Acts of Vandalism					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Married	236	49.4	242	50.6	478	100.0
Divorced, Separated, Widowed	37	69.8	16	30.2	53	100.0
TOTAL	273	51.4	258	46.6	531	100.0

$X < .01$, C = S.

Table 8

Sex of Heads of Household of Rural High School Sophomores Involved in Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Sex of Head Of Household	Involvement in Acts of Vandalism					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	246	50.8	238	49.2	484	100.0
Female	34	58.6	24	41.4	58	100.0
TOTAL	280	51.7	262	48.3	542	100.0

$X > .05$, C = N.S.

The ages of heads of households were divided into categories of those 49 years of age or under and those 50 or older. It may be seen in Table 9 that rural high school sophomores from households where the heads are 50 years of age or over are more likely to have committed acts of vandalism than students from households where the heads were younger. No explanation can be offered at this time but this finding should be further investigated. The numbers of acts of vandalism reported by the respondents were not related to the age of the heads.

Table 9

Age of Heads of Households of Rural Ohio High School Sophomores Involved In Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Age of Head of Household	Involved in Acts of Vandalism					
	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
49 and Under	194	48.5	206	51.5	400	100.0
50 and Over	68	60.7	44	39.3	112	100.0
TOTAL	262	51.2	250	48.8	512	100.0

$X^2 < .02$, C = S.

Vandalistic Behavior

The question of whether acts of vandalism are committed by individuals acting alone or in groups was investigated. Data presented in Table 10 show that vandalism is largely a group phenomenon. More than 9 acts out of 10 are carried out by persons acting in groups. Only 7 percent of these destructive acts were committed alone.

Table 10

Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Involved in Acts of Vandalism and the Number of People Present, 1975

Number of People Present	Involved In Vandalistic Act	
	Number	Percent
Alone	15	7.1
Two	58	27.6
Three	55	26.2
Four or More	82	39.1
TOTAL	210	100.0

An earlier study involving members of Farm Bureau Advisory Councils throughout Ohio revealed that many felt the number one reason that crime was increasing in rural areas was due to an increase of drugs (1974: 24). Of 295 rural high school sophomores reported being involved in one or more vandalistic acts, 114 or 39 percent noted one or more members of the group were consuming an alcoholic beverage at the time an act of vandalism was being perpetrated. The kinds of beverages consumed may be seen in Table 11. One-half of those drinking an alcoholic beverage were consuming beer. All others consumed a variety of drinks including wine and whiskey. Other type drugs were not widely used at the time vandals were active. Eleven percent reported smoking marijuana during their vandalistic episode. No other drugs were reported used by these rural high school sophomores while vandalizing.

Table 11

Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Reporting Members of The Group Drinking Alcohol Beverages At The Time of Being Involved In Vandalism, 1975

Type of Alcohol Beverage	Consumed Alcohol During Vandalism	
	Number	Percent
Beer	57	50.0
Combination of Alcohol Beverages	40	35.1
Not Specified and Other	17	14.9
TOTAL	114	100.0

$X^2 < .001$, C = S.

Another question of importance in this research was concerned with the methods of how the student respondents transported themselves to the site where vandalism was performed. It was hypothesized that cars would be the mode of transportation most often employed as students can move away from their immediate surroundings and reduce the chance of being recognized. This hypothesis was verified. Data in Table 12 show that in nearly 47 percent of the cases, motor vehicles were used. Most of these motor vehicles were family cars, with a few trucks and a very small number of motorcycles. Walking was second most mentioned type of transportation, accounting for 35 percent of the incidents.

Table 12

Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Reporting Methods of Transportation Used To The Places Where the Vandalism Occurred, 1975

Method of Transportation	Students Reporting	
	Number	Percent
Walking	98	34.9
Motor Vehicle	131	46.6
Combination	33	11.7
Bicycle	19	6.8
TOTAL	281	100.0

Seasons of the year were searched as a contributor to patterns of vandalism. These data may be seen in Table 13. The subjects of this research said Autumn was the peak season for most acts of vandalism reported, with 31 percent occurring from September through November. Winter accounted for 28 percent, Spring for 18 percent, and Summer for 23 percent. October was the leading month with 17 percent, followed by March with 12 percent. Halloween, undoubtedly, accounts for October topping the list, with this traditional holiday permitting a certain amount of controlled deviant behavior. The high rate in March can perhaps be explained by the doldrums of late winter and the first few nice days of Spring. Caution should be exercised in the use of these data relative to when an incident occurred as memory of the timing of such events tends to be faulty.

Table 13

Season of the Year That Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Reported Being Involved in Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Season Vandalism Committed	Number	Percent
Autumn (Sept., Oct., Nov.)	59	31.0
Winter (Dec., Jan., Feb.)	53	27.9
Spring (Mar., Apr., May)	34	17.9
Summer (June, July, Aug.)	44	23.3
TOTAL	190	100.0

$X^2 > .05$, = N.S.

Data in Table 14 support the thesis that vandalism is largely a leisure time activity brought on by the lack of excitement or meaningful things for youth to do. One of the consequences of the reduced need of youth for work-related roles in contemporary society is large amounts of unfulfilled leisure time at their disposal. For most youth, weekdays for 9 or 10 months of the year are involved in a variety of school activities. Experience would suggest weekends tend to be not nearly so well planned. Almost 6 out of 10 vandalistic acts (58.8 percent) occur during the weekends. Weekends thus become a targeted period for groups wishing to do something about this issue.

Table 14

Time of the Week Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Reported Being Involved In Acts Of Vandalism, 1975

Time Of The Week	Acts of Vandalism	
	Number	Percent
Weekend	163	58.8
Weekday	114	41.2
TOTAL	277	100.0

$X^2 < .001$, C = S.

Another dimension of the time factor is the period of the day when vandalism is most likely to be perpetrated. Data in Table 15 show that the afternoon is the peak period for vandalizing. About a third (36.1 percent) of all acts of vandalism occur during the period from noon to six o'clock. Evening hours constitute the second highest time period, with the late night hours the least. Again, the late afternoon and early evening hours are the times of day most youth are free from school and other responsibilities.

Table 15

Time of the Day Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Reported Being Involved In Acts of Vandalism, 1975

Time of The Day	Acts of Vandalism	
	Number	Percent
Night 1 - 6 a.m.	29	10.7
Morning 7 - Noon	56	20.7
Afternoon - 6 p.m.	98	36.1
Evening 7 - Midnight	88	32.5
TOTAL	271	100.0

$X^2 < .001$, C = S.

Attitudes Toward Vandalism

Perhaps the most important dimension of vandalism is why people do it. Student respondents in this research suggested they did it for a number of reasons. Data presented in Table 16 indicate that the most prevalent reason offered is that they committed an act of vandalism for fun, as a part of a game or as a part of a contest of skills. Six out of every 10 acts of vandalism (59.[illegible] percent) were done for these reasons. The motivating factors for this type of behavior have been suggested by Cohen as being competition, curiosity, or skill testing (1973: 42). Fun, enjoyment, a game are terms often used by the participant to describe his action. Rarely does the participant view his behavior as wrong: He was involved in a game; the property damage was incidental to this activity.

Table 16

Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents Views As To Why They Participated In A Vandalistic Act, 1975

Reason Given	Number	Percent
A Game, Fun, Contest, Etc.	164	59.9
Getting Even	32	11.7
Side Effect of Committing A More Serious Offense	20	7.3
Combination of Reasons	19	6.9
An Expression of Rage	11	4.0
To Draw Attention To Issue Or Grievance	10	3.6
Other	18	6.6
TOTAL	274	100.0

Nearly 12 percent of the respondents noted they committed an act of vandalism to "get even." According to Cohen, this vindictive type of vandalism frequently occurs after an individual (or group) senses that he has been victimized by another person. Vindictive vandalism is used to settle grudges. It is an expression of indignation, anger and revenge. It is much safer than personal assault, and being caught is unlikely. Often this form of vandalism is employed to strike back indirectly or at symbols associated with the victim. Hostility and deliberateness are characteristics of vindictive vandalism. It is rational and utilitarian

behavior of the moment for the vandal. He caused his victim discomfort and received his revenge. It serves no purpose from the victim's standpoint. He usually does not know his adversary for certain and he usually is not intimidated or caused to change.

Property destroyed in the process of committing another crime was the third most often cited type of vandalism by rural high school sophomores (7.3 percent). The vandalistic aspect of the act is secondary to the primary crime, which is most often theft.

Four percent reported the motivation for their behavior was an expression of rage.

Malicious vandalism is often labeled by society as senseless, vicious or wanton. Terms such as rage, frustration, boredom, resentment, despair, failure or exasperation are descriptive of the feelings of the vandal as he enters the malicious act of vandalism. The type of property and the ownership of it are less important in this act than the environmental and social-psychological settings. Understanding malicious vandalism is difficult because of the apparent conflict and contrast within a given act.

Information was sought in this study to determine if the participant viewed his act of vandalism as a crime or a prank. Clinard and Quinney (1967: 89-91) suggest that vandals usually view their actions as non-criminal in nature. Table 17 contains the responses of this study population. Nearly 3 out of 4 do not perceive their act as criminal. This strongly suggests that any approach developed must address the fact that perpetrators of vandalism do not see their behavior as particularly wrong. Therefore, attitudinal change is probably necessary

before much reduction in vandalism is likely to occur.

Table 17

Rural Ohio High School Sophomore Respondents
Views As To Whether They Were Committing A Criminal Act,
When They Participated In Vandalism, 1975

View Vandalistic Act As Criminal	Number	Percent
No	199	70.8
Yes	82	29.2
TOTAL	281	100.0

$X < .001$, $C = S$.

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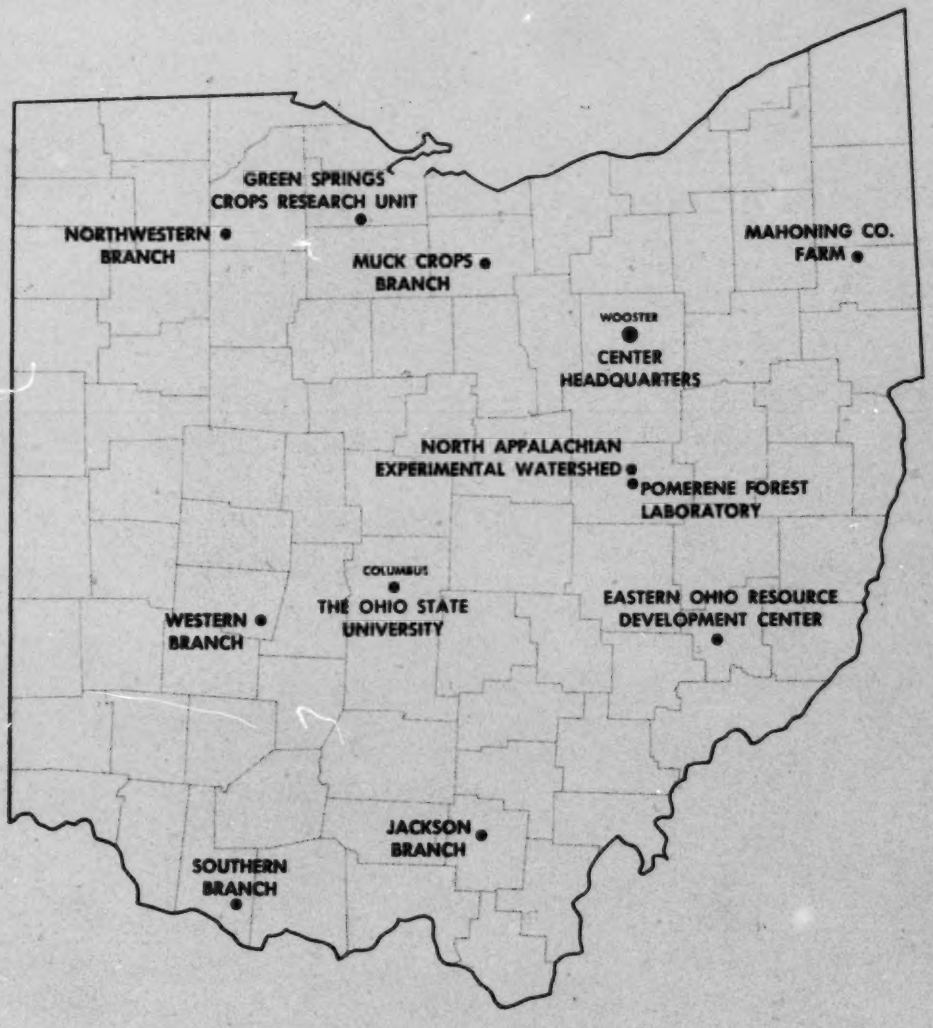

Ohio's major soil types and climatic conditions are represented at the Research Center's 12 locations.

Research is conducted by 15 departments on more than 7000 acres at Center headquarters in Wooster, seven branches, Green Springs Crops Research Unit, Pomerene Forest Laboratory, North Appalachian Experimental Watershed, and The Ohio State University.

Center Headquarters, Wooster, Wayne County: 1953 acres

Eastern Ohio Resource Development Center, Caldwell, Noble County: 2053 acres

Green Springs Crops Research Unit, Green Springs, Sandusky County: 26 acres

Jackson Branch, Jackson, Jackson County: 502 acres

Mahoning County Farm, Canfield: 275 acres

Muck Crops Branch, Willard, Huron County: 15 acres

North Appalachian Experimental Watershed, Coshocton, Coshocton County: 1047 acres (Cooperative with Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture)

Northwestern Branch, Hoytville, Wood County: 247 acres

Pomerene Forest Laboratory, Coshocton County: 227 acres

Southern Branch, Ripley, Brown County: 275 acres

Western Branch, South Charleston, Clark County: 428 acres